Legislation Text

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Proclaiming January 13, 2024 as Korean American Day in Philadelphia to Celebrate and Commemorate the Proud Heritage of Korean Americans and their Invaluable Contributions to Enhance the City's Culture, Economy, and the Founding Ideals of Independence and Democracy.

WHEREAS, The first wave of Korean immigrants to the United States, comprised of 102 people, arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii, on January 13, 1903. Today, 1.9 million people of Korean descent live throughout the United States and are part of a vibrant, growing Korean American community; and

WHEREAS, The Centennial Committees of Korean Immigration and Korean Americans have designated January 13th of each year as Korean American Day to commemorate the first step of the long and prosperous journey of Korean Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush issued a Proclamation recognizing January 13, 2003 as the anniversary of Centennial of Korean Immigration to the United States. The proclamation called upon all Americans to observe the anniversary with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities honoring contributions of Korean immigrants and their descendants, especially their courageous service in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, and other wars to defend and uphold our American values; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, the United States Congress adopted Senate Resolution 283 and House of Representative Resolution 487, which both supported the goals and ideals of Korean American Day; and

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Census data, the Korean American community in the Philadelphia metropolitan area has grown to exceed 42,000 members. Korean Americans own many retail stores, provide various cultural opportunities, and are making important contributions in several distinguished career fields such as law, government, medicine, business, education, architecture, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, Significant exchanges between Korea and Philadelphia are ever increasing, and the friendship between the two has been characterized by a shared love of freedom, dedication to peace, and building of prosperity; and

WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia will formally welcome the Korean American community and guests to City Hall to raise the South Korean Flag on Friday, January 12th (in lieu of Saturday, January 13th); and

WHEREAS, The Korean American community wishes to provide a meaningful opportunity to foster an understanding of the many achievements of the Korean American community which have been intrinsically woven in the American experience; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it hereby proclaims January 13, 2024 as Korean American Day in the City of Philadelphia to celebrate and commemorate the proud heritage of Korean Americans and their invaluable contributions to enhance the City's culture, economy, and the founding ideals of independence and democracy.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the Board of The Friends of the Korean War Memorial at Penn's Landing, for their exemplary leadership in providing self-less service in honoring the Korean War Veterans, further evidencing the sincere admiration and respect of this legislative body.